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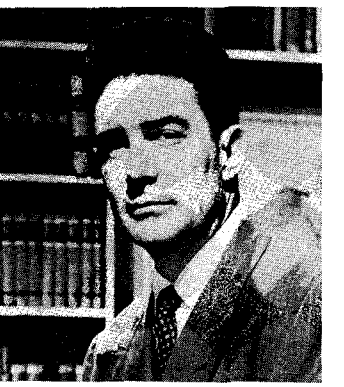

DAN SMOOT

POWER HUNGRY BUREAUCRATS

In 1950, Wilford Metcalf, a disabled World War II veteran with three and a half years' combat service in Europe, bought 86 acres of Tennessee mountain land. His deed specified that he owned the land "to the top of the mountain." He cut timber and raised tobacco on his little farm. In 1965, the U. S. Forest Service declared that Metcalf owned only 31 acres — that the other 55 acres belonged to government because they are part of the Cherokee National Forest. Asserting that Metcalf owed $1717.52 for timber he had cut on land claimed by the government, the Forest Service submitted the case to the Department of Justice for prosecution against Metcalf. Metcalf offered his entire farm to the government to settle the claim.(1)

U. S. Representative James H. Quillen (Tennessee Republican) said:

"It is strange that at the same time the Federal Government is spending $760 a month each putting girls up in plush hotels in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Los Angeles — in the name of fighting poverty — they are prosecuting a disabled veteran with a wife and four children who is guilty only of trying to wrest a living from his land."(1)

Public and congressional interest in the Metcalf case prompted the Forest Service to make another survey. On second survey, the Service discovered that Metcalf owned all 86 acres of the farm he had bought, had not been guilty of trespass upon government land, and did not owe the $1717.52.(1)

Official hunger for private land to add to the public domain has produced many strange cases.

On June 20, 1965, a meeting of the Western Mining Council was held at Catheys Valley, California, to protest U.S. Forest Service confiscation of a five-acre tract of land where a millsite has been located along Highway 140 since 1927. The millsite serves two gold mines. The Forest Service wants to eliminate this privately-owned facility (essential to the production of gold from two mines, at a time when America's monetary gold reserve is desperately low) so that a government

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campground for tourists can be established on the five-acre tract. A Forest Service official admits there are many other suitable tracts for a campsite along Highway 140, but says the Service wants this particular tract and is going to take it — asserting that the Forest Service has power to confiscate any private land for public recreational purposes.[2]

During February, 1962, the Interior Department tried to seize 10,000 acres of property near Terre Haute, Indiana, to establish the Splunge Bird Refuge. This would have forced 86 farm families to vacate some of Indiana's richest farm land. Landowners organized and resisted, arguing that there was no necessity for the refuge; that its establishment would cause a loss of one million dollars a year in agricultural production, together with loss of trade and local tax revenues dependent on agricultural production — and that wild birds attracted to the proposed Splunge Bird Refuge from other available and adequate sanctuaries would endanger jet aircraft using nearby fields. Government officials said:

"We need some place for the birds to get together with the people."[3]

In September, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-712, establishing an 81-mile long National Park on Padre Island — a sandy spit of land, 117 miles long, 3 miles wide, in the Gulf of Mexico, just off the coast of Texas at Corpus Christi. Portions of Padre, under private development, have yielded 12 million dollars in oil and gas tax revenue for Texas public schools. Commercial mineral potential of the island is estimated at one billion dollars. Public Law 87-712 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to pay out five million dollars for private lands confiscated for the park. Land that was producing tax revenue for state, local, and federal governments now consumes tax money from the federal treasury. No one benefits — except bureaucrats whose power and dominions are enlarged. Padre is no better place for tourists and vacationers now than before it became government property.[4]

On August 26, 1965, the Senate, by voice vote, passed S 936, to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Northwest Michigan. If approved by the House, this bill will complete a federal land grab contemplated by Washington officialdom since 1959. S 936 will authorize the Department of Interior to spend $9,500,000 for acquisition costs and $14,500,000 for development costs in establishing a 46,100 acre national park, occupying 31 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and embracing South Manitou Island (about 5300 acres) which is seven miles offshore.[5]

Michigan already has five national forests containing over 2,543,000 acres. Two of them, covering 40 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, are seldom used by the touring and vacationing public. Michigan boasts enough state and federal forests (6,305,464 acres) for every family in the United States to camp within their limits at one time.[5]

What, then, is the *need* for this federal land grab? Here are excerpts from the minority views of United States Senators opposed to the Sleeping Bear Dunes scheme:

"The Sleeping Bear Dunes area is a beautiful area which has been kept up and maintained by the citizens of the area. There is no need for Federal intervention to maintain the beauty of that area.

"This proposed lakeshore area of 46,100 acres has within it 37,600 acres of privately owned land which would be subjected to condemnation or the threat of condemnation if this bill were passed. Spread out over these 37,600 acres of privately owned land, you will find 274 homes.

"We can find nothing. . .which would justify the condemnation of these privately owned lands or the harassment and regimentation to which the homeowners would be subjected . . . .

"The bill clearly gives the Secretary [of the Interior] the power to condemn private property, but he can exercise or withhold that power at his discretion. Consequently, if the Secretary refuses to offer the landowner what he considers to be a fair market value, the landowner has no redress, because it is unlikely that any other per-

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son would be interested in buying the land which is subject to condemnation.

"Those who own unimproved property as defined in the bill could not develop or use the property except as the Secretary dictated. Yet, they would receive no compensation for the restricted use nor would the Secretary be required to acquire or purchase it. The only privilege the landowner would have because of his ownership would be to pay taxes on it . . . .

"This bill . . . does not provide for the loss of revenues that would result to the school districts and county governments in that area. Two school districts in this area would be seriously affected if these private lands are taken by the Federal government and removed from the local tax rolls."[5]

The federal government already owns 772 million acres of land — about 34% of the total land area of the nation. Hence, more than one-third of all land in the United States, instead of producing revenue, is an expense to taxpayers.[6] Some consequences of this condition are indicated by the following passages from an article in the August, 1965, issue of the *California Mining Journal*:

"The State of California is the largest State in the Union population-wise, yet it is a divided State since the Federal Government owns and controls over 50 percent of the land within its boundaries. Although the Federal agencies control over half the State, they devote most of their energy to the accumulation of more land. The Government pays no taxes on this land and as a result, the counties find it difficult to raise enough money for . . . legitimate needs. Communities surrounded by Federal land are unable to expand, and industry is driven from the area. Almost every county in California which is labeled a depressed area is surrounded by huge areas of Federally owned lands.

"Meanwhile, the biggest problem in the U. S. today is the expanding population. People not only need places to live, but we must also supply jobs for them. This cannot be accomplished as long as communities are stifled by Federal Bureaucracies."[7]

Yet, the government's hunger for land grows with every new tract seized from private owners and added to the public domain.

The Wilderness Bill of 1964 placed 9.1 million acres of federally-owned lands under a wilderness system controlled by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. The Bill authorized future acquisition of an additional 52.1 million acres.[8]

All land in the wilderness system will be retained in primitive condition. No road-building, cattle-grazing, mining, lumbering, or other human activity is permitted *except as desired and authorized by federal administrators*. Federal officials may permit prospecting for water, establishment of reservoirs, construction of *public power* projects and transmission lines, and construction of other facilities which the officials consider " in the public interest."[8]

The Omnibus Farm Bill of 1965 (HR 9811) provides for converting privately owned cropland into public parks, lakes, recreation areas, and so on.[9]

National policy with regard to the public domain is now doing the exact opposite of what was originally intended.

When American independence was declared, some of the original 13 states claimed jurisdiction over unsettled western lands, and many claims overlapped. This potential breeder of war and disunion was eliminated when the states ceded their claimed western territories to the federal government. The federal government, in turn, was pledged to use the ceded territories for the good of all states and (in due time and under proper conditions) to admit western territories as states of the union having equal rights and privileges with the original states.

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The ceding of lands by the original states in the union; the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon in 1803; and purchase agreements and treaties with England, Spain, Mexico, Texas, Russia, Hawaii, and various Indian tribes, brought into the public domain of the United States a vast empire of more than one and one-half billion acres of land.

It was not intended that the United States Government would retain *ownership* of these lands but would, rather, administer them until they could be disposed of to individuals and to new state governments being organized.

Originally, land in the public domain was disposed of by *sale*, to provide revenue for the federal government. Beginning in the 1830's, however, the federal government began to *give away* public lands, to serve various economic and social purposes. Special grants of land from the public domain were made for schools, seminaries, deaf-mute asylums, charitable institutions, wagon road construction, canal digging, levee building, swamp draining. Between 1850 and 1870, nearly 95 million acres of public lands were given to some 70 railroad systems. Between 1862 and 1957, nearly 248 million acres of public lands were given to individuals who settled the West under terms of the Homestead Act.

Another change in the administration of public lands became apparent in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Instead of *disposing* of public land, so that it could be developed by private individuals under the political authority of state and local governments, the federal bureaucracy began *holding on* to the public domain, creating a mammoth land-management system, administered and policed from Washington.

Great tracts of public land were set aside as national parks, national forests, national monuments, and wildlife sanctuaries. The use of other lands retained under government ownership was subject to tight federal controls. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, for example (ostensibly intended to regulate the use of undeveloped public land for grazing livestock) gave the Secretary of the Interior authority to supervise virtually all activity throughout a gigantic portion of the public domain—even authorizing the Secretary to acquire by lease, and to supervise, privately owned and state owned grazing lands adjacent to federal grazing districts.

In 1946, the Department of the Interior was reorganized. The General Land Office and the Grazing Service were combined into the Bureau of Land Management. This marked the beginning of a new policy. Instead of *disposing* of public land, or merely holding onto what it already had, the federal government began *accumulating* more land, by purchase or outright seizure.

The area of land now owned and controlled by the federal government, within the United States, is greater than the combined land area of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Germany, Iceland, Denmark, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Monaco, Albania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria.

How do federal officials justify confiscating private land to swell the public domain? They use propaganda that is appealing, but false. For example, the propaganda about preserving the magnificence of unspoiled nature for future generations has emotional appeal, but is not grounded in truth or logic.

If you set aside wilderness areas that are accessible only to a favored few who can afford expensive safaris into them—what becomes of your argument that you are preserving these beauty spots "for the people"?

On the other hand, when an area of natural beauty is set aside as a National Park and made accessible to motorized millions, with handy water fountains, ready-made camping sites, and other modern conveniences, the place quickly loses much of the beauty and grandeur (and all of the soul-restoring solitude) of the wilderness.

Parts of man-made, privately-owned Disneyland have more of the appearance of unspoiled beauty

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than some of the famous spots of natural grandeur which are trampled, buffeted, scratched and littered by a floodtide of tourists who feel no obligation to care for something that belongs to nobody, but is the property of everybody.

Hatred of private enterprise and distrust of private ownership underlie much of the government propaganda about the need to "preserve our wilderness areas." This propaganda assumes that private owners will waste, despoil, and ruin, and that government is therefore justified in "saving" wilderness lands "for future generations," from ruthless exploitation by "private interests." This is the current theme of officials who want the federal government to confiscate the great Allagash wilderness of Maine.[10]

Timber forests of Maine have been owned and managed by private interests for hundreds of years. Private owners have actually improved on nature, making wilderness areas accessible to the public, clearing underbrush, containing lightning-caused forest fires, scientifically planting and tending disease-free trees — while preserving the beauty, grandeur, and solitude natural to great forests.[10]

In 1604, when white men first began cutting trees in Maine, Maine had about 18 million acres of standing timber. Today, after three and a half centuries of commercial lumbering, Maine has 17 million acres of standing timber—an area which actually contains more trees than the entire region had in its primeval state.[10]

Owners of timberland in Maine provide hundreds of miles of privately-built roads, which the public may travel, free of charge, through one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the world.[10]

Men who invest in land and timber do not permit destruction of their investment. They protect it. The best preserved, most carefully protected wilderness areas anywhere are privately owned, commercially operated timberlands. Land suffering depletion is usually *government* land, administered by bureaucrats who have no vital interest in caring for it.

U. S. Senator Milward Simpson (Wyoming Republican, former Governor of Wyoming) was on hand a few years ago to witness the establishing of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Commenting on the Sleeping Bear Dunes scheme about to be authorized in Michigan, Senator Simpson said:

"They built a Coney Island in the world's most beautiful country . . . . They'll do it here. The power-hungry bureaucrats in this department have no great love for Mother Nature. They want only one thing: more and more property — *your property and mine* — and they don't care how they get it."[5]

The empire building of power hungry bureaucrats is helping implement the communist plan for conquest of the United States. In the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848, Karl Marx outlined ten measures for worldwide communist conquest. The first of the ten was:

"Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes."[11]

In 1932, William Z. Foster (then national chairman of the U. S. communist party) restated Point One of the *Communist Manifesto* in terms specifically applicable to the United States. Foster said:

"The establishment of an American Soviet government . . . . will involve the early confiscation of the large landed estates in town and country . . . and also the whole body of forests, mineral deposits, lakes, rivers, etc."[12]

What will the government do with the land it is acquiring? There is an inkling of an answer in a United Press International news story from Washington, published in the July 9, 1961, issue of *The Dallas Times Herald*:

"Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall is concerned that federal lands may be blocking growth and industrialization of metropolitan areas.

"He has sent Congress proposed legislation which would, among other things, allow the Interior Department to lay out and subdivide federal lands in the paths of expanding areas.

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"These lands would be made available for direct sale or lease as individual sites or lots . . . .

"In all cases, lands to be developed would be governed by a comprehensive land use plan to be worked out in close cooperation with state and local government agencies. Nonconforming and substandard land uses would not be permitted. Performance bonds might be required in some cases."

There are the language and the thinking of the planners of other people's lives. When the government controls all land, permitting it to be used only within conformity to the taste and specifications of the Washington bureaucracy, we will have national, monolithic ugliness, standardized by government planning.

The planning is already in an advanced stage.

In August, 1965, Congress approved HR 6927, complying with President Johnson's request to create a new cabinet-level Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. This Department will combine (and direct into a united front against the interests of private property) the federal government's various programs of housing, urban renewal, city planning, mass transit subsidies, and other operations designed to make the federal government absolute master of our cities and states.

On August 26, 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965—to give the bureaucrats more tax money for forcing their schemes upon the public. The Economic Development Act of 1965 created the Economic Development Administration (EDA), to replace the Area Redevelopment Administration (ARA), which had been created in 1961. After four years, and the unconstitutional squandering of 435 million dollars, ARA had failed to provide material blessings promised by its sponsors. So, President Johnson ordered Congress to change the name of the organization, expand its functions, extend its reach into the pockets of all taxpayers. The new EDA is authorized to spend three billion, 250 million dollars during the next five years—to develop waterworks, sanitary and storm sewers, industrial parks, police and fire stations, tourism facilities, airports, watershed protection, flood prevention projects, residential streets, hospitals, vocational education facilities, community centers.[13]

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate "economic development regions" which will cross state lines. The act authorizes the Secretary to "invite and encourage" states to plan development through multistate regional commissions. Each commission will be composed of one member from each participating state in the region and one federal member with singular veto power over any plans made by the majority of state members. The regional commissions are authorized to make "recommendations" about expenditure of funds by federal, state, and local agencies in their respective regions and to recommend local, state, and federal legislation desired by the commissions.[13]

If the EDA does all that its supporters envision, it will transform our union of sovereign states into Metropolitan America—a regionally planned, monolithically unified nation, divided into a score of metropolitan areas which sprawl across state boundary lines. Each area will be ruled by a metropolitan government of appointed experts who receive their jobs, their orders, and their revenue from the Washington politburo. Each area will be developed according to the wishes of government planners. Any private landowner who hinders "progress" dictated by government officials will be removed by force from his property, compensated with whatever amount of tax money the bureaucrats declare his confiscated property to be worth.

Land grabbing by the federal bureaucracy fulfills Point One of the *Communist Manifesto*. Planned use of the federal land (together with related schemes for urban-rural planning and management by federal officials; and Supreme Court reapportionment decisions which eliminate distinctions between urban and rural representation in state legislatures) fulfills Point Nine of the *Communist Manifesto*:

"Combination of agriculture with manufac-

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turing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by more equable distribution of population over the country."[11]

The Metropolitan America being planned by Washington bureaucrats, financed by money confiscated from all taxpayers, enforced by the unlimited power of the federal government, is fulfilling William Z. Foster's 1932 plan for a Soviet America.

What To Do

The people must elect a Congress of constitutionalists who will repeal the laws that are communizing our nation. An article entitled "Return 'Public Lands' to the States and Abolish Federal Agencies," in the August, 1965, issue of *California Mining Journal*, mentions some specific steps which Congress should take:

"We can no longer afford the luxury of financing bureaucracies on top of bureaucracies especially when they duplicate each other's work. In California, we have a State Division of Forestry and a U. S. Forest Service; we also have a U. S. Parks Service and a State Parks Service; a California Division of Mines and a U. S. Bureau of Mines; a California Fish and Game and a U. S. Fish and Game.

"The State agencies, being closer to the problem, are in a better position to know the needs of the State and are the better judge of what lands should be released for private use . . . .

"The states are fully capable of managing the land within their own boundaries and can do so more economically."[7]

The federal Forest Service, Parks Service, Bureau of Mines, Fish and Wildlife Service, and kindred federal agencies should be abolished. The Bureau of Land Management, which *acquires* and *manages* public land, should be replaced with something comparable to the old General Land Office which was created in 1812 to *dispose of federal lands.*

Since the most effective work in preservation of historical sites and scenes of natural beauty has been accomplished by private effort, it is hardly conceivable that government action would ever be necessary in this field; but if it ever should be, the responsibility should rest with state and local governments.

There is no valid reason why Washington bureaucrats should plan and control parks and other recreational areas for the people. There are many reasons why they should *not* have such power—the most important reason being that concentration of

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WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU getting BA and MA degrees, 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent: three and a half years on communist investigations; two years on FBI headquarters staff; almost four years on general FBI cases in various places. He resigned from the FBI and, from 1951 to 1955, was commentator on national radio and television programs, giving *both* sides of controversial issues. In July, 1955, he started his present profit-supported, free-enterprise business: publishing *The Dan Smoot Report*, a weekly magazine available by subscription; and producing a weekly news-analysis radio and television broadcast, available for sponsorship by reputable business firms, as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and broadcast give *one* side of important issues: the side that presents documented truth using the American Constitution as a yardstick. If you think Smoot's materials are effective against socialism and communism, you can help immensely — help get subscribers for the *Report,* commercial sponsors for the broadcast.

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power in Washington is a prerequisite step toward communizing America.

Congress should determine what lands are needed for public use by civilian and military agencies of the federal government. All federal land *not absolutely necessary for legitimate, constitutional federal use*, should be sold to private purchasers and to local and state governments. The proceeds should be applied on payment of our national debt, to reduce the crushing burden we are piling up for future generations.

FOOTNOTES

(1) "Real 'Poverty' In Tennessee," by Ken Thompson, *The Dallas Morning News*, May 29, 1965, p. 2D; "Dept. of Agriculture Evicts World War II Vet From Tennessee Farm," *California Mining Journal*, August, 1965, p. 19; "Happy Ending," editorial, *The Dallas Morning News*, July 7, 1965, p. 2D

(2) "Mariposa W.M.C. Meeting Held to Air F. S. Plan to Take Millsite," *California Mining Journal*, August, 1965, p. 20: for one year's subscription (12 issues) send $3.50 to the *California Mining Journal*, P. O. Drawer 628, Santa Cruz, California 95062.

(3) "Bird Refuge Plan Praised and Assailed," by Frank Hughes, *The Chicago Tribune*, April 18, 1962

(4) "Sadler Calls Padre Plan 'Give-Away'," *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, October 24, 1961; *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, 1962, p. 466

(5) "Udall Plans Land-Grab in Michigan," article by William Schulz, *Human Events*, June 15, 1963, pp. 168-9; "Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Mich." *Congressional Record*, August 26, 1965, pp. 21257-62

(6) "Value of Federal Property Exceeds Amount of U. S. Debt, Report Says," by Kim Willenson, *The Washington Post*, January 16, 1963; *The World Almanac for* 1955, p. 285

(7) "Return 'Public Lands' to the States and Abolish Federal Agencies," *California Mining Journal*, August, 1965, p. 18; for subscription details, see Footnote (2).

(8) *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, 1964, pp. 485-92

(9) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, February 5, 1965, pp. 212-5

(10) "Private Enterprise Excels The Gov't In Wilderness Preservation," reprint from the Lima, Ohio *News*, *California Mining Journal*, February, 1965, p. 5

(11) *Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx, Gateway Editions, Inc., 1954

(12) *Toward Soviet America*, by William Z. Foster, Elgin Publications, 1961, pp. 276-8

(13) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, August 20, 1965, pp. 1635-40

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